

**Information Item: 16-03 Neuse, Tar-Pamlico and Falls Lake Annual Agriculture Progress Reports**

**Explanation:**

The Tar-Pamlico, Neuse, and Falls Agriculture Rules (15A NCAC 2B .0238, .0256, and .0280 respectively) require their Basin or Watershed Oversight Committees to report to the Division and Commission regarding annual implementation progress. In addition to submitting these three routine reports, the Division also submits a one-time report concluding that agriculture has achieved reasonable progress towards their Stage I reduction goals under the Falls strategy.

The reports estimate cumulative nitrogen loss reductions from crop agriculture of 53% (Tar-Pamlico), 58% (Neuse), and 70% (Falls) from baseline through 2015. A 36% reduction in nitrogen loss from pasture-based livestock operations is also reported in the Falls Lake watershed. Finally, an evaluation of qualitative indicators shows no increased risk of phosphorus loss in either the Tar-Pamlico or Falls watershed.